<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

Please amend Claims 1-5, 15, 17, 24, 31, 33, 41, 58, 61, 66, 69-71, 74, and 75 as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of enabling a user to obtain fee-based content over a network, comprising:

establishing an account at a third party billing server;

storing, at the third party billing server, user account information including an account identifier generated by the third party billing server, an account balance and at least one of a credit card number and a debit card number associated with an account held by the user, apart from the account established at the third party billing server;

setting user-defined parameters specified by the user to accept all fees below a predetermined amount, the predetermined amount defining a threshold for determining whether an individual fee should be accepted, without regard to a cumulative total of the fees;

storing account information on the user's information appliance, the account information comprising the account identifier and the user-defined parameters;

receiving a selection of content by the user, at a user location, the content being from a content provider location;

determining whether the content requires payment of a fee by the user;

retrieving the account information stored on the information appliance ~~when the user selects content data requiring a fee~~;

- 2 -

comparing the fee for the selected content to the predetermined amount;

displaying [[the]] selected content having an associated fee less than the predetermined amount to the user when the fee for the selected content is less than the predetermined amount;

transmitting the account identifier and an amount of [[the]] a fee associated with the selected content that is less than the predetermined amount to the third party billing server when the fee for the selected content is less than the predetermined amount;

accumulating a plurality of fees incurred by the user at the third party billing server; and

billing the user for an amount equal to a sum of the accumulated plurality of fees through the credit card number or debit card number associated with the account held by the user, apart from the account established at the third party billing server, wherein the user-defined parameters are not used by the information appliance to perform a search for the content.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising prompting the user for acceptance of [[the]] a fee when the fee for the selected content that exceeds the predetermined amount.

3.   (Currently Amended) A system that enables a user to obtain fee-based content from a remote location, comprising:

a client information appliance, adapted configured to establish an account with a third party; store, at a payment appliance associated with the third party, user

account information including an account identifier generated by the payment appliance, an account balance and at least one of a credit card number and a debit card number associated with an account held by the user, apart from the account established with the third party; and receive user-defined parameters specified by the user and relating to acceptance of fees, including a predetermined amount defining a threshold for determining whether an individual fee should be accepted, without regard to a cumulative total of the fees, the client information appliance being further ~~adapted~~ <u>configured</u> to store account information comprising the account identifier of the user and the user-defined parameters, the client information appliance being further ~~adapted~~ <u>configured</u> to retrieve content from the remote location and display that content to the user at the client information appliance, in response to the content being selected~~, wherein the user-defined parameters are not used by the client information appliance to perform a search for content~~;

a content provider appliance, ~~adapted~~ <u>configured</u> to provide content to one or more client information appliances,

wherein the client information appliance retrieves a portion of content from a remote location, retrieves the account information stored by the client information appliance, [[and]] determines whether a fee for additional content exceeds the predetermined amount, based on the user-defined parameters, and ~~if it is determined that the fee for the additional contents does not exceed the predetermined amount,~~ <u>retrieves</u> [[the]] additional content <u>having an associated fee that does not exceed the predetermined amount</u> ~~is retrieved~~, and the client information appliance transmits the account identifier and an amount of the fee to the payment appliance; and

the payment appliance, associated with the third party, the payment

appliance ~~adapted~~ configured to accumulate fees incurred by the user, bill the user for an

amount equal to a sum of the accumulated fees through the credit card number or debit

card number associated with the account held by the user, apart from the account

established with the third party, and to remit payment to the content provider.

4.   (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 3, wherein ~~if the fee for~~

~~the additional content exceeds the predetermined amount,~~ the user is prompted to accept

[[the]] a fee for the additional content that exceeds a predetermined amount, after which ~~,~~

~~and if the user accepts,~~ the additional content is retrieved.

5.   (Currently Amended) A method for accessing content over a

network, comprising:

establishing an account at a third party billing server;

storing, at the third party billing server, user account information including

an account identifier generated by the third party billing server, an account balance and at

least one of a credit card number and a debit card number associated with an account held

by the user, apart from the account established at the third party billing server;

storing account information on a user's information appliance, the account

information comprising the account identifier of the user and at least one predefined user-

preference;

accessing, through the network, selected content that requires a fee to be

accessed, based on the at least one predefined user-preference, specified by the user, pre-

authorizing payment for content requiring a fee, and without obtaining further user input

specifying a payment authorization or a payment method selection prior to the accessing,

~~wherein the at least one predefined user-preference is not used by the user's information~~

~~appliance to perform a search for the content~~;

retrieving the account information stored on the information appliance ~~when~~

~~the selected content requires a fee~~;

transmitting the account identifier and an amount of the fee to [[a]] the third

party billing server;

accumulating fees to account for all those incurred for accessing each

selected content accessed in the accessing; and

billing the user for an amount equal to a sum of the accumulated plurality of

fees through the credit card number or debit card number associated with the account held

by the user, apart from the account established at the third party billing server,

wherein the selecting of the content is not dependent on the at least one

predefined user-preference.

6.   (Cancelled).

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising

integrating the at least one predefined user-preference on a browser application.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein the user pays the third party on a periodic basis, and further comprising verifying, by a third party billing server, the fees incurred.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Clam 5, wherein the at least one predefined user-preference pre-authorizes payment for any content from any available content provider, and the accessing accesses selected content from any available selected content provider.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein the at least one predefined user-preference pre-authorizes payment for no more than a particular quantity of fees within a particular time period.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein the at least one predefined user-preference pre-authorizes payment for individual fees that do not exceed a particular individual fee threshold.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein the at least one predefined user-preference pre-authorizes payment for accumulated fees that do not exceed a particular accumulated fee threshold.

13.   (Original) The method of Claim 5, further comprising collecting content from a plurality of content providers as a function of HTML or other tags of each content provider website.

14.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein the at least one predefined user-preference pre-authorizes payment for content from only predetermined content providers.

15.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 5, further comprising presenting content from a content provider [[when]] having an individual fee associated therewith that does not exceed an individual fee threshold and an accumulated fee that does not exceed an accumulated fee threshold, without prompting a user.

16.   (Original) The method of Claim 5, further comprising rejecting content from a content provider based on the type of content.

17.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 5, further comprising:

presenting a prompt requesting further authorization for when a fee that exceeds a pre-authorized maximum amount specified by the at least one predefined user-preference.

18.   (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein the network is the Internet.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising inputting a user-defined password prior to requesting content over the network.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 5, further comprising generating an invoice as a function of fees incurred by a user.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6, wherein the third party billing server provider is an Internet Service Provider.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6, wherein the third party billing server provider is a financial institution.

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[6,]] 5, further comprising transmitting a message from the third party billing server to a user regarding [[when]] accumulated fees that exceed a predetermined amount.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising:

    storing the user account information at a remote location;

    storing the at least one predefined user-preference at the remote location; and

enabling a user to access the user account information and at least one predefined user-preference from the remote location.

26.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising providing a connection from a user terminal to the third party billing server to enable a user to access their account from a terminal using a browser.

27.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising prompting a user to approve a fee for content that has not been pre-authorized.

28.   (Cancelled).

29.   (Cancelled).

30.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising:

paying fees to a content provider in a first currency; and

paying fees to a third party billing server provider in a second currency.

31.   (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[6,]] 5, wherein the third party billing server provider is another user.

32.   (Original) The method of Claim 29, further comprising generating a signal indicative of a user account balance being less than a predetermined amount.

33.   (Currently Amended) A system that enables a user to access fee-based content from a remote location, comprising:

a client information appliance, configured to establish an account with a third party; store, at a payment appliance associated with the third party, user account information including an account identifier generated by the payment appliance, an account balance and at least one of a credit card number and a debit card number associated with an account held by the user, apart from the account established with the third party; and receive user-defined settings, specified by the user regarding acceptance of fees, the client information appliance configured to retrieve content to the user from the remote location, in response to the content being selected by the user, the client information appliance being configured to store account information comprising account identifier of the user and the user-defined parameters, and wherein the user-defined settings are not used by the client information appliance to perform a search for content;

a content provider appliance configured to provide content to one or more client information appliances,

wherein the client information appliance retrieves the account information stored by the client information appliance, determines whether retrieved content requires payment of a fee and if so, determines whether [[the]] content requiring payment of a fee has been pre-approved by the user-defined settings, and accepts if the content that has been pre-approved is accepted without further user input specifying a payment authorization or a

payment method selection, and the client information appliance transmits the account identifier and an amount of the fee to a payment appliance; and

the payment appliance configured to accumulate fees incurred by the user, bill the user <u>for an amount equal to a sum of the accumulated fees</u> through the credit card number or debit card number associated with the account held by the user, apart from the account established with the third party, and to remit payment to the content provider based on the accumulated fees.

34. (Cancelled).

35. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 33, wherein the client information appliance comprises an Internet browser, that is integrated with the user-defined settings.

36. (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein a third party verifies the fees incurred by the user.

37. (Original) The system of Claim 33, further comprising a memory medium that stores the user-defined settings that enables the user to automatically accept authorized fees.

38. (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the user-defined settings accept a preselected number of fees within a preselected period of time.

39.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 33, wherein the user-defined settings accept fees from selected content providers without prompting the user.

40.   (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the client information appliance rejects content having a fee that exceeds a predetermined amount.

41.   (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 33, wherein the client information appliance rejects content having [[when]] an accumulated fee that exceeds a predetermined accumulated fee amount.

42.   (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein content is collected from a plurality of content providers as a function of HTML or other tags of each content provider website.

43.   (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the client information appliance generates a prompt, that is displayed to the user, prior to acceptance of a fee that exceeds a predetermined threshold and the user determines whether the content is accessed.

44.   (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the information appliance rejects content from a content provider based on the type of content.

45.   (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the user inputs a password in order to accept the fee associated with particular content.

46.   (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the network is the Internet.

47.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 33, wherein the user provides the payment appliance with the account information, which the payment appliance utilizes to collect payment for a user's accumulated fees.

48.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 33, wherein the user pre-pays a pre-selected amount to a third party associated with the payment appliance.

49.   (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the payment appliance generates a signal indicative of a user account balance being less than a predetermined amount, and the client information appliance displays the signal.

50.   (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the payment appliance generates an invoice for each user appliance and transmits the invoice to an address designated by the user appliance.

51.   (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the payment appliance is associated with a financial institution.

52. (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the payment appliance is a client information appliance.

53. (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein the payment appliance is associated with an Internet Service Provider.

54. (Original) The system of Claim 33, wherein a user is able to access their user-account from a remote information appliance.

55. (Cancelled).

56. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 33, wherein the user account information is stored at the payment appliance.

57. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 33, wherein the payment appliance remits payment to the content provider in a first currency and the user remits payment to] a third party associated with the payment appliance in a second currency.

58. (Currently Amended) A method of providing payment of royalties for fee-based content over a network, comprising:

establishing an account at a third party billing server;

storing, at the third party billing server, user account information including an account identifier generated by the third party billing server, an account balance and at least one of a credit card number and a debit card number associated with an account held by the user, apart from the account established at the third party billing server;

setting user-defined parameters specified by a user that pre-authorize retrieval of content data requiring a fee to be retrieved, so that no further user input specifying a payment authorization or a payment method selection is required;

storing account information on the user's information appliance, the account information comprising the account identifier of the user and the user-defined parameters;

accepting selection, by the user, of content data desired to be retrieved from a content provider;

retrieving a first portion of selected content data at a user location, the first portion of the selected content data provided without a fee;

determining whether a second portion of the selected content data is desired, the second portion of the selected content data having an associated fee,

retrieving the account information stored on the information appliance ~~when the user selects content data requiring a fee~~;

wherein <u>the associated fee for the second portion of selected the content data that is accepted based on the user-defined parameters is calculated,</u> ~~when the second portion of the selected content data is accepted based on the user-defined parameters, the associated fee is calculated,~~ a portion of which includes a royalty;

transmitting the account identifier and amount of the fee and an amount of the royalty, to the third party billing server; and

accumulating a plurality of royalty fees;

accumulating a plurality of content fees; and

billing the user for <u>an amount equal to a sum of</u> the accumulated <u>plurality of</u> fees through the credit card number or debit card number associated with the account held by the user, apart from the account established at the third party billing server~~,~~

~~wherein the user-defined parameters are not used by the information appliance to perform a search for content~~.

59.   (Cancelled).

60.   (Cancelled).

61.   (Currently Amended) A system for providing payment of royalties, comprising:

a client information appliance, ~~adapted~~ <u>configured</u> to accept a user-specified command specifying a selection of content to be retrieved, and to retrieve the content from a remote location, the client information appliance also being ~~adapted~~ <u>configured</u> to store user-defined parameters, specified by the user, that pre-authorize retrieval of content requiring a fee to be retrieved, so that no further user input specifying a payment authorization or a payment method selection is required, the client information appliance being ~~adapted~~ <u>configured</u> to store account information comprising an account identifier of the user and the user-defined parameters~~, and wherein the user-defined parameters are not used by the information appliance to perform a search for content~~;

a content provider appliance, ~~adapted~~ <u>configured</u> to provide content from a content provider to one or more client information appliances,

wherein the client information appliance, retrieves the account information stored by the client information appliance, retrieves the content from a remote location based on the user-defined parameters, and transmits the account identifier and an amount of the fee to a payment appliance; and

the payment appliance, ~~adapted~~ <u>configured</u> to accumulate fees incurred by the user and to remit payment to the content provider <u>in an amount equal to a sum of the accumulated fees</u> and to remit a royalty payment.

62. - 65.　　　(Cancelled).

66.　　　(Currently Amended) A system for enabling a user to access content data and purchase items and/or services over a network, comprising:

a client information appliance ~~adapted~~ <u>configured</u> to establish an account with a third party; store, at a payment appliance associated with the third party, user account information including an account identifier generated by the payment appliance, an account balance and at least one of a credit card number and a debit card number associated with an account held by the user, apart from the account established with the third party; and receive inputs from the user that pre-authorize a first amount for payment of content data, and receive inputs from the user that pre-authorize a second amount for payment of items and/or services, the client information appliance being further ~~adapted~~ <u>configured</u> to store account information comprising an account identifier of the user and

the user-defined parameters, the client information appliance being further ~~adapted~~

<u>configured</u> to retrieve selected content data from a remote location and determine a fee

associated with the content and items and/or services, the first and second amounts each

defining a threshold for determining whether an individual fee should be accepted, without

regard to a cumulative total of the fees,

wherein ~~the inputs received from the user pre-authorizing the first and~~

~~second amounts are not used by the client information appliance to perform a search for~~

~~content, and if the fee for the selected content does not exceed the pre-authorized first~~

~~amount, the~~ <u>selected</u> content <u>having an associated fee that does not exceed the pre-</u>

<u>authorized first amount</u> is displayed at the client information appliance without prompting

the user, and

wherein the user selects items and/or services, the client information

appliance retrieves the stored account information, and ~~if the fee for selected items and/or~~

~~services does not exceed the pre-authorized second amount,~~ the items and/or services

<u>having an associated fee that does not exceed the pre-authorized second amount</u> are

purchased without prompting the user for input specifying a payment authorization or a

payment method selection, and the client information appliance transmits the account

identifier and an amount of the fee to a payment appliance; and

the payment appliance associated with a third party, that accumulates fees

associated with content and items and/or services incurred by the user, bill the user <u>for an</u>

<u>amount equal to a sum of the accumulated fees</u> through the credit card number or debit

card number associated with the account held by the user, apart from the account

- 19 -

established with the third party, and remits payment to a provider of the content and items and/or services.

67.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 66, wherein the user pays the third party on a periodic basis.

68.   (Previous Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising predefining the at least one user-preference to pre-authorize payment for content requiring a fee.

69.   (Currently Amended) A memory medium storing a control program for causing a computer to perform a method of enabling a user to obtain fee-based content over a network, said control program comprising

code for establishing an account at a third party billing server;

code for storing, at the third party billing server, user account information including an account identifier generated by the third party billing server, an account balance and at least one of a credit card number and a debit card number associated with an account held by the user, apart from the account established at the third party billing server;

code for setting user-defined parameters, specified by the user, to accept all fees below a predetermined amount, the predetermined amount defining a threshold for determining whether an individual fee should be accepted, without regard to a cumulative total of the fees;

code for storing account information on the user's information appliance, the account information comprising an account identifier of the user and the user-defined parameters;

code for receiving a selection of content by the user, at a user location, the content being from a content provider location;

code for determining whether the content requires payment of a fee by the user;

code for retrieving the account information stored on the information appliance ~~when the user selects content data requiring a fee~~;

code for comparing the fee for the selected content to the predetermined amount;

code for displaying [[the]] selected content to the user <u>having an associated fee that</u> ~~when the fee for the content~~ is less than the predetermined amount;

code for transmitting the account identifier and an amount of the fee [[of]] <u>for selected content having an associated fee less than the predetermined amount</u> to the third party billing server ~~when the fee for the selected content is less than the predetermined amount~~;

code for accumulating a plurality of fees incurred by the user at the third party billing server; and

code for billing the user for <u>an amount equal to a sum of</u> the accumulated <u>plurality of</u> fees through the credit card number or debit card number associated with the account held by the user, apart from the account established at the third party billing server.

~~wherein the user-defined parameters are not used by the information~~

~~appliance to perform a search for content~~.

70.   (Currently Amended) A memory medium storing a control program

for causing a computer to perform a method for accessing content over a network, said

control program comprising:

code for establishing an account at a third party billing server;

code for storing, at the third party billing server, user account information

including an account identifier generated by the third party billing server, an account

balance and at least one of a credit card number and a debit card number associated with an

account held by the user, apart from the account established at the third party billing server;

code for storing account information on a user's information appliance, the

account information comprising an account identifier of the user and at least one

predefined user-preference;

code for accessing, through the network, selected content that requires a fee

to be accessed, based on the at least one predefined user-preference, specified by the user,

pre-authorizing payment for content requiring a fee, and without further user input

specifying a payment authorization or a payment method selection prior to the accessing;

code for retrieving the account information stored on the information

appliance ~~when the selected content requires a fee~~;

code for transmitting the account identifier and an amount of the fee to the

third party billing server; and

code for accumulating fees to account for all those incurred for accessing each selected content accessed in the accessing; and

code for billing the user for <u>an amount equal to a sum of</u> the accumulated <u>plurality of</u> fees through the credit card number or debit card number associated with the account held by the user, apart from the account established at the third party billing server~~,~~

~~wherein the at least one predefined user-preference is not used by the user's information appliance to perform a search for the content~~.

71.   (Currently Amended) A method for interacting with a network, comprising the steps of:

establishing an account at a third party billing server;

storing, at the third party billing server, user account information including an account identifier generated by the third party billing server, an account balance and at least one of a credit card number and a debit card number associated with an account held by the user, apart from the account established at the third party billing server;

accepting electronic pre-authorization of payment for any electronic content that requires payment of a fee to be accessed over the network;

storing account information on an information appliance, the account information comprising an account identifier of the user and electronic pre-authorization information;

retrieving the account information stored on the information appliance;

accessing selected electronic content that requires payment of a fee to be accessed, from selected ones of any available plural content providers, based on the

electronic pre-authorization information without further user input specifying a payment authorization or a payment method selection;

transmitting the account identifier and an amount of the fee to the third party billing server; and

billing the user for <u>an amount equal to a sum of</u> the accumulated <u>plurality of</u> fees through the credit card number or debit card number associated with the account held by the user, apart from the account established at the third party billing server~~,~~

~~wherein the electronic pre-authorization is not used by the information appliance to perform a search for electronic content~~.

72.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the third party billing server provider pays the content provider the amount of the fees incurred by the user and the user makes payment to the third party billing server provider on a periodic basis.

73.   (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 3, wherein the user pays the third party on a periodic basis.

74.   (Currently Amended) A system for interacting with a network, the system comprising:

means for establishing an account at a third party billing server;

means for storing, at the third party billing server, user account information including an account identifier generated by the third party billing server, an account

- 24 -

balance and at least one of a credit card number and a debit card number associated with an account held by the user, apart from the account established at the third party billing server;

means for accepting electronic pre-authorization of payment for any electronic content that requires payment of a fee to be accessed over the network;

means for storing account information on an information appliance, the account information comprising an account identifier of the user and electronic pre-authorization information;

means for retrieving the account information stored on the information appliance;

means for accessing selected electronic content that requires payment of a fee to be accessed, from selected ones of any available plural content providers, based on the electronic pre-authorization information without further user input specifying a payment authorization or a payment method selection;

means for transmitting the account identifier and an amount of the fee to a third party billing server; and

means for billing the user for <u>an amount equal to a sum of</u> the accumulated <u>plurality of</u> fees through the credit card number or debit card number associated with the account held by the user, apart from the account established at the third party billing server~

~~wherein the electronic pre-authorization is not used by the information appliance to perform a search for electronic content.~~

75.   (Currently Amended) A memory medium storing a control program for causing a computer to perform method for interacting with a network, said control program comprising:

code for establishing an account at a third party billing server;

code for storing, at the third party billing server, user account information including an account identifier generated by the third party billing server, an account balance and at least one of a credit card number and a debit card number associated with an account held by the user, apart from the account established at the third party billing server;

code for accepting electronic pre-authorization of payment for any electronic content that requires payment of a fee to be accessed over the network;

code for storing account information on an information appliance, the account information comprising an account identifier of the user and electronic pre-authorization information;

code for retrieving the account information stored on the information appliance;

code for accessing selected electronic content that requires payment of a fee to be accessed, from selected ones of any available plural content providers, based on the electronic pre-authorization information without further user input specifying a payment authorization or a payment method selection;

code for transmitting the account identifier and an amount of the fee to the third party billing server; and

code for billing the user for <u>an amount equal to a sum of</u> the accumulated

<u>plurality of</u> fees through the credit card number or debit card number associated with the

account held by the user, apart from the account established at the third party billing server~~,~~

~~wherein the electronic pre-authorization is not used by the information~~

~~appliance to perform a search for electronic content~~.

76.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, further comprising

downloading a program from the third party billing server to the user's information

appliance, the program being configured to accept input of the at least one predefined user-

preference and store the at least one predefined user-preference on the user's information

appliance.

77.   (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 76, wherein the

downloaded program is a browser plug-in.